IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

PATRICIA WHEELES,	7888 AYR 22 F7 3: 21
Plaintiff,	DEBR), P. HACKETT, CLK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
v.	MIDIT E DISTRICT ALA CASE NO. 3:07-cv-1006-TFM
NELSON'S ELECTRIC MOTOR,)
SERVICES, GARY NELSON,	.,)
individually, and in his official capac LOUISE PARTIKA, individually, an	• / /
in her official capacity, and RENEA)
MORGAN, individually, and in her)
official capacity,)
Defendants.	,
Dulumanis.	,

PLAINTIFF'S RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

COMES NOW Patricia Wheeles, Plaintiff in the above-styled cause, and files her Response in Opposition to Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment. The Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment is due to be denied. As grounds for so moving, Plaintiff sets down and assigns the following:

INTRODUCTION

The Plaintiff, Patricia Wheeles, a former employee of Nelson's Electric Motor Services, brought the instant case alleging that she was discriminated by the Defendants due to her age, religious beliefs, was subjected to a hostile work environment, and as a result of this discrimination, was wrongfully terminated. (Plaintiff's Complaint). This suit followed the Plaintiff's filing of a Charge of Discrimination with the EEOC on December 5, 2006, and the EEOC's mailing of its Dismissal and Notice of Rights to the Plaintiff on August 27, 2007. (See

EEOC Charge of Discrimination and Dismissal and Notice of Rights, attached hereto as Exhibit 1).

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 1. Plaintiff was employed by Nelson's Electric Motor Services from on or about August 1999 until on or about August 2006, when she was wrongfully terminated. (Plaintiff's Complaint; Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, attached hereto as Exhibit 2, page 6, ll. 18-20).
- 2. On or about May 5, 2005, the Plaintiff, Patricia Wheeles, began to be treated differently and thereafter her job duties were changed. (Plaintiff's Complaint).
- 3. On or about May 5, 2005, a significantly younger female, the Defendant, Renea Morgan, was hired. (Plaintiff's Complaint).
- 4. After the hiring of Defendant Renea Morgan, the Plaintiff's position and job duties were delegated to the Defendant, Renea Morgan, which eventually resulted in the dismissal of the Plaintiff from her employment with the Defendant, Nelson's Electric Motor Services. (Plaintiff's Complaint).
- 5. The Plaintiff's dismissal from her employment with the Defendant, Nelson's Electric Motor Services, was without justification or reason. The Defendant told the Plaintiff that the company no longer could support three office personnel, and as such, she was fired. (Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, Exhibit 2, p. 52, ll.4-10).
- 6. After the termination of the Plaintiff, the Defendant hired a third office employee, after telling the Plaintiff that the company could not support three office personnel. (Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, Exhibit 2, p. 52, II.11-13; Affidavit of Gary Nelson, attached to Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment).

- 7. The Defendants Gary Nelson and Renea Morgan began an interpersonal relationship resulting in a hostile work environment for the Plaintiff. (Plaintiff's Complaint; Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, Exhibit 2, p. 60, ll.1-23).
- 8. As a result of the Defendants Gary Nelson and Renea Morgan's relationship, the Plaintiff was caused to endure ridicule from other employees regarding her religious beliefs. (Plaintiff's Complaint; Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, Exhibit 2, p.60, ll.1-23).
- 9. When the Plaintiff attempted to inform the Defendant, Gary Nelson, of the hostility she was being forced to endure, the Defendant refused to listen, telling her he didn't care. (Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, Exhibit 2, p. 48, ll.11-22).
- 10. In June 2006, Defendant Gary Nelson, stated to the Plaintiff that he was going to give Defendant Renea Morgan a 15% raise, and that the Plaintiff would only receive a 10% raise. (Plaintiff's Complaint).
- 11. Later in June 2006, the Defendant, Gary Nelson, again approached the Plaintiff, this time to inform her that if she wished to continue working for Nelson's Electric Motor Service, that she would have to do so at the Opelika Shop. (Plaintiff's Complaint; Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, p. 53, ll.10-23).
- 12. The Plaintiff was told by Defendant Gary Nelson, that she was to begin working at the Opelika Shop no later than August 31, 2006. (Plaintiff's Complaint).
- 13. The Defendant, Gary Nelson, made sure that the Plaintiff was made aware that unlike the male employee Brian Voss, who travels to the Opelika Shop and receives a reimbursement check for gas expenses associated with his travel, that she would not receive any reimbursement for gas, nor would she receive a pay increase other than her 10% raise. (Plaintiff's Complaint; Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, Exhibit 2, p. 55, 11.4-17).

- 14. In reliance on the aforementioned statements made to the Plaintiff regarding her working at the Opelika Shop, the Plaintiff purchased a more gas efficient vehicle. (Plaintiff's Complaint; Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, p. 53, ll.10-23).
- 15. Upon the Plaintiff's termination from her employment with the Defendant, the Plaintiff was caused to suffer physically hostile treatment from Defendant, Gary Nelson. The Defendant grabbed the Plaintiff's arm and yanked two CD's out of her hand. (Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, p. 62, 11.1-17).

SUMMARY JUDGMENT STANDARD

Summary judgment is appropriate "if the pleadings, depositions, answers to interrogatories, and admissions on file, together with the affidavits, if any, show that there is no genuine issue of material fact and that the moving party is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law." Fed.R.Civ.P. 56(c); *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 322, 106 S.Ct. 2548, 2552, 91 L.Ed.2d 265 (1986).

"[I]f the dispute about a material fact is 'genuine,' that is, if the evidence is such that a reasonable jury could return a verdict for the nonmoving party," summary judgment is inappropriate. *Barfield v. Brierton*, 883 F.2d 923, 933 (11th Cir.1989); *Livernois v. Medical Disposables, Inc.*, 837 F.2d 1018, 1021-22 (11th Cir.1988). "[T]he substantive law will identify which facts are material"; the district court "must view the evidence presented through the prism of the substantive evidentiary burden." *Id.* at 248, 254, 106 S.Ct. at 2513. The court must view all evidence most favorably toward the nonmoving party, and all justifiable inferences are to be drawn in the nonmoving party's favor. *Id.* at 255, 106 S.Ct. at 2513-14; *Bannum*, 901 F.2d at 996; *Livernois*, 837 F.2d at 1022. If, so viewed, reasonable jurors could find a verdict for the nonmoving party under the substantive evidentiary standard, the nonmoving party can defeat

summary judgment. Anderson, 477 U.S. at 252, 106 S.Ct. at 2512; Cable/Home Communication v. Network Productions, 902 F.2d 829, 841 (11th Cir.1990); Carlin Communication, Inc. v. Southern Bell Tel. & Tel., 802 F.2d 1352, 1356 (11th Cir.1986).

ARGUMENT

I. PLAINTIFF'S CLAIMS AGAINST THE EMPLOYEES OF NELSON'S ELECTRIC SHOULD NOT BE DISMISSED.

Under Alabama case law, an employer is liable for the torts of an employee (1) if the employee was acting within the line and scope of his employment or (2) if the employer ratified, confirmed, or adopted the unauthorized wrongful conduct of the employee. *Moman v. Gregerson's Foods*, Inc., 570 So.2d 1215, 1216 (Ala.1990).

In the instant matter, the allegations made the basis of the Plaintiff's Complaint as they pertain to the individual employees, were ratified, confirmed, or adopted by Gary Nelson, the Plaintiff's employer. Nelson's refusal to deter the "shop workers" use of profanity in the presence of the Plaintiff resulted in his ratifying this behavior. Furthermore, when the Plaintiff attempted to communicate the problems that she had been having with the ladies in the office, in particular Renea Morgan and Louise Partika, Gary Nelson told her that he didn't care what Renea or Louise either one did or said, nor anyone else as far as that was concerned. (Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, Exhibit 2, p. 48, ll.11-18). Nelson's refusal to address the problems that the Plaintiff was having in the workplace, was in effect his ratifying these behaviors. As such, the Defendants' Motion to Dismiss the Plaintiff's claims as to the individual employees of Nelson's is due to be denied.

II. PLAINTIFF HAS STATED FACTS SUFFICIENT TO ALLEGE A VIOLATION OF HER RIGHTS UNDER TITLE VII.

This Court has stated:

As a prerequisite to filing a lawsuit, a Title VII employee must exhaust his or her administrative remedies by timely filing a charge of discrimination with the EEOC. See Alexander v. Fulton County, Georgia, 207 F.3d 1303, 1332 (11th Cir.2000) (citing 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5). The EEOC charge must "contain, among other things, '[a] clear and concise statement of the facts, including pertinent dates, constituting the alleged unlawful employment practices.' " Id. (quoting 29 C.F.R. § 1601.12(a)(3)). "A plaintiff's judicial complaint is limited by the scope of the EEOC investigation which can reasonably be expected to grow out of the charge of discrimination." Id. In the latter regard, the Eleventh Circuit has stated: "As long as allegations in the judicial complaint and proof are 'reasonably related' to charges in the administrative filing and 'no material differences' between them exist, the court will entertain them." Wu v. Thomas, 863 F.2d 1543, 1547 (11th Cir.1989) (citations omitted). "Judicial claims which serve to amplify, clarify, or more clearly focus earlier EEO complaints are appropriate. Allegations of new acts of discrimination, offered as the essential basis for the requested judicial review are not appropriate." Id.

Cobb v. Marshall, 481 F.Supp.2d 1248, 1254 (M.D. Ala. 2007).

The Plaintiff's claims all are claims that can reasonably be expected to grow out of the charge of discrimination. The Defendants state that the Plaintiff originally alleges that Reana Morgan was the employee that replaced her. (Defendants' Memorandum Brief in Support of Motion for Summary Judgment). Notwithstanding the Defendant Nelson's hiring of Debra Keel, and her subsequent separation from employment with the same, the Plaintiff maintains that she was fired to make room for Reana Morgan's advancement within the company. (Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, Exhibit 2, p. 23, 1l. 5-11). During the Plaintiff's Deposition, while on direct examination by counsel for the Defendants, the following was stated:

- Q. Well, let me ask you this, Patricia. Whey were you terminated?
- A. Gary Nelson just told me that he didn't have room for three of us in the office and that he wanted Renea to take over the office, that Louise would be retiring in about four years. By then Renea would learn how to do things.

Id.

The Plaintiff's Notice of Charge of Discrimination, filed with the EEOC on or about December 14, 2006, stated in relation to her dismissal from employment with Nelson's the following:

...This dismissal was without justification or reason, as the Complainant, Patricia Wheeles, had been an exemplary employee. This dismissal was the result of the Complainant, Patricia Wheeles, being replaced by a younger employee. Said younger employee developed an interpersonal relationship with the owner of said company, ... resulting additionally in a hostile work environment and/or sexual harassment. ...

(See EEOC Charge of Discrimination, attached hereto as Exhibit 1).

The Defendant's hiring of another female, within the same age range as the Plaintiff, following the Plaintiff's termination from employment, does not negate the Plaintiff's claims. Rather, the Defendant's hiring of another female office worker following the Plaintiff's termination, ratifies the Plaintiff's position that she was wrongfully terminated. The Defendant told the Plaintiff that she was being terminated because the company could no longer support three office personnel. Once the Plaintiff was terminated, the Defendant hired a third office person, thus lending credence to the Plaintiff's claim that she was unjustly terminated. (Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment).

A. Hostile Work Environment Claim

The Defendants cite to *Harris v. Forklift Sys. Inc.*, regarding the requirements for establishing a claim for hostile workplace. Assuming *arguendo* that this is the proper standard for discrimination claims, the Plaintiff has met the requirements thereto.

Harris sets forth the following standard to establish discriminatory conduct resulting in a hostile workplace, the conduct must be "so severe or pervasive that it create[s] a work environment abusive to employees because of their race, gender, religion or national origin..." Harris v. Forklift Sys. Inc., 510 U.S. 17, 22-24, 114 S. Ct. 347, 371, 126 L. Ed. 2d 295 (1993).

The Plaintiff has alleged that the Defendants discriminated against her based upon her gender and her religion. (Plaintiff's Complaint) Furthermore, the Plaintiff testified in her deposition that the hostility shown towards her, in particularly that of Renea Morgan, created a hostile work environment.

Ms. Morgan's treatment towards the Plaintiff, her comments regarding the Plaintiff's religious beliefs, her berating the Plaintiff, her flaunting of her relationship with Mr. Nelson, etc., created an environment that was, according to the Plaintiff in her deposition, "[...]was very uncomfortable to go to work there. I went because I had bills to pay." (Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, Exhibit 2, p. 61, ll. 11, 12). Furthermore, the Plaintiff testified in her deposition that the shop workers routinely cussed around the office, even to the Plaintiff directly. (Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, Exhibit 2, p. 39, ll.11-23; p. 40, ll.1-15). In addition, the Plaintiff testified that Gary Nelson physically assaulted her while she was packing her belongings. (Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, Exhibit 2, p. 62, ll.1-17).

The Plaintiff has identified several incidents where she was discriminated against while employed with the Defendant's company. These were not isolated incidents that should be viewed lightly or dismissed as the Defendants would have this Court do. Rather, these incidents, when viewed together, show a pattern of discriminatory actions, that resulted in a hostile workplace, that the Plaintiff was forced to suffer due to her need for income. As such, the Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment should be denied.

i. The harasser is the employer or one of its agents (or) the employer knew or should have known of the harassment caused by co-workers, but failed to take corrective action.

The Plaintiff must show that the either: the harasser is the employer or one of its agents; or the employer knew of should have known of the harassment caused by the co-workers, but

failed to take corrective action. Sparks v. Pilot Freight Carriers, Inc., 830 F.2d 1554 (11th Cir. 1987). In the instant case, not only was the harasser the employer, but the employer knew of the harassment caused by the co-workers and failed to take corrective action. The Plaintiff testified in her deposition that Gary Nelson physically assaulted her. (Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, Exhibit 2, p. 62, ll. 1-17). Furthermore, the Plaintiff attempted to inform Gary Nelson of other discriminatory acts by the employees at Nelson, but was informed by Nelson that he didn't care. (Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, Exhibit 2, p. 48, ll.11-22). Because the employer was the harasser and the employer knew or should have known of the harassment caused by the coworkers and failed to take corrective actions, the Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment should be denied.

III. PLAINTIFF HAS ALLEGED FACTS SUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH A VIOLATION OF HER RIGHTS UNDER THE ADEA.

That Plaintiff has alleged facts sufficient to establish a violation of her rights under the ADEA. The ADEA states,

a) Employer practices

It shall be unlawful for an employer--

- (1) to fail or refuse to hire or to discharge any individual or otherwise discriminate against any individual with respect to his compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, because of such individual's age;
- (2) to limit, segregate, or classify his employees in any way which would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect his status as an employee, because of such individual's age; or
- (3) to reduce the wage rate of any employee in order to comply.

29 U.S.C.A. § 623.

The Plaintiff's Complaint alleges that she was terminated by the Defendant, in order to make room for a younger, less qualified, female employee. (Plaintiff's Complaint). The Defendants assert that the Plaintiff was fired for a legitimate, non-discriminatory reason. This

issue is material to this litigation, and is very contested and disputed. The standard set forth by *McDonnell Douglas Corp. v. Green*, 411 U.S. 792, 93 S. Ct. 1817, 36 L. Ed. 2d 668 (1973), the plaintiff must establish a prima facie case of discrimination. The Plaintiff in the instant matter has met this burden as she was terminated for a job that she was well qualified for, without justification, and the employer informed her that a significantly younger, less qualified candidate would be running the office in time — in other words, this significantly younger female, who is less qualified that the Plaintiff would be taking over the duties of the office and the Plaintiff was no longer needed.

As the Defendants asserted, where age discrimination is concerned, the Plaintiff must establish the following: that 1) she is a member of a protected group of persons between the ages of forty and seventy; 2) she was qualified for the position held; 3) she was subjected to an adverse employment action; and 4) a substantially younger person filled the position that she sought or from which she was discharged. See *Damon v. Fleming Supermarkets of Fla.*, 196 F.3d 1359 (11th Cir. 1999).

In the instant matter, the Plaintiff was between the ages of forty and seventy, at the times of the incidents made the basis of the Complaint. The Plaintiff was qualified of her position, as illustrated by her length of time of employment with the Defendant Company. (Plaintiff's Complaint) The Plaintiff was subjected to an adverse employment action in that she was terminated. (Plaintiff's Complaint) Renea Morgan, a substantially younger female, has assumed the responsibility of the Plaintiff in that she is responsible for the payroll that was previously the responsibility of the Plaintiff while the Plaintiff was employed by the Defendant Company. (Plaintiff's Complaint; Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment). As such, the Plaintiff has

established a prima facie case for age discrimination and the Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment should be denied.

The Defendants contend that even if the Plaintiff has met her burden of establishing a prima facie case, the Plaintiff was terminated for a legitimate, non-discriminatory reason. The Defendants contend that as a result of the loss of a substantial part of its business in Alexander City, the employer was eliminating a position at the Alexander City office. Presumably this position was that of the Plaintiff's. However, the Defendant Company later employed a third employee. (Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment). The Plaintiff was told that she was being terminated because the company could not support three office personnel positions. (Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, Exhibit 2, p. 52, 11.11-13), even though the Defendant subsequently hired a third person. Furthermore, the Defendants assert that the Plaintiff was not sent to the Opelika office, as she was originally told was going to happen resulting in the Plaintiff purchasing a more fuel economic vehicle in reliance of the same, because of the employee Ricky Lashley stating that if the Plaintiff was moved to the Opelika office, he was quit. (Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment). The Defendants maintain that the Plaintiff and Lashley did not have a good working relationship, however, this is not the position of the Plaintiff. (Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, Exhibit 2, p. 28, 11.5-13). In fact, the Defendant, Gary Nelson, told the Plaintiff that if she was transferred to the Opelika office, that he would make sure that Ricky Lashley would fire her the moment she walked into the plant. (Deposition of Patricia Wheeles, Exhibit 2, p. 28, Il. 1-4). As such, the Defendants cannot establish a legitimate, non discriminatory reason for the termination of the Plaintiff, the Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment should be denied.

IV. PLAINTIFF HAS ALLEGED FACTS SUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH A GENUINE ISSUE OF MATERIAL FACT.

There does exist a genuine issue of material fact in the instant matter so as to preclude the Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment. The Plaintiff contends that she was discriminated against during her employment with the Defendant Company, and has testified in her deposition to the same. The Defendants assert that the Plaintiff was either not caused to suffer discrimination during her employment with the Defendant Company, or if she was caused to endure those instances that she complains, they were insignificant and do not rise to discrimination. The reason for the Plaintiff's termination from the Defendant Company is in dispute, and because the reason for termination is the basis of this suit, the Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment should be denied. Furthermore, whether the Plaintiff was caused to suffer a hostile workplace is in dispute and because it is a material fact necessary to the Plaintiff's Complaint, the Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment should be denied.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, the Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment is due to be denied because there exists material facts as issue in the instant matter. Therefore, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Honorable Court enter an Order denying Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment.

Respectfully submitted, this **22** day of April, 2008

Derrick Blythe, [BLY Attorney for Plaintiff

126 Marshall Street

Alexander City, AL 35010

(256)234-4101

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the **ZZ** day of April, 2008, that I have served a copy of the foregoing upon the following by placing a true and correct copy of the same, postage prepaid, via U.S. Mail, addressed as follows:

William Larkin Radney, III, Esq. Barnes & Radney, P.C., Law Firm 80 North Central Avenue Post Office Drawer 877 Alexander City, Alabama 35011-0877

OF COUNSEL

Exhibit 1

EEOC Charge of Discrimination and Dismissal and Notice of Rights

EEOC Form 161	1 (3/98) U.S. EQUAL EMPLOY	WENT OPPORTUNI	
	DISMISSAL	AND N OTICE OF	RIGHTS
1083	Patricia Wheeles I Moose Road ander City, AL 35010	From:	Birmingham District Office Ridge Park Place 1130 22nd Street, South Birmingham, AL 35205
	On behalf of person(s) aggrieved whose CONFIDENTIAL (29 CFR §1601.7(a))	identity is	
EEOC Charg	ge No. EEOC Representati	ve	Telephone No.
	Ollie M. Croom	,	
420-2007-	-01048 Investigator		(205) 212-2140
THE EEO	C IS CLOSING ITS FILE ON THIS CHARG	E FOR THE FOLLO	WING REASON:
	The facts alleged in the charge fail to state a claim u	nder any of the statutes of	enforced by the EEOC.
	Your allegations did not involve a disability as define	ed by the Americans With	n Disabilities Act.
	The Respondent employs less than the required nur	nber of employees or is r	ot otherwise covered by the statutes.
	Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other charge	er words, you waited too	long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file your
	Having been given 30 days in which to respinterviews/conferences, or otherwise failed to coope	oond, you failed to pr rate to the extent that it w	ovide information, failed to appear or be available for as not possible to resolve your charge.
	While reasonable efforts were made to locate you, w	ve were not able to do so	
	You were given 30 days to accept a reasonable sett	lement offer that affords t	full relief for the harm you alleged.
X		certify that the responde	the EEOC is unable to conclude that the information obtained nt is in compliance with the statutes. No finding is made as to e.
	The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or I	ocal fair employment pra	ctices agency that investigated this charge.
	Other (briefly state)		
Andrew E.		E OF SUIT RIGH al information attached to	
notice of d federal law	dismissal and of your right to sue that we we we based on this charge in federal or state contice; or your right to sue based on this charge.	ill send you. You n ourt. Your lawsuit i	ination in Employment Act: This will be the only nay file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) unde must be filed WITHIN 90 DAYS of your receip time limit for filing suit based on a state claim may
alleged EP			within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the tions that occurred more than 2 years (3 years
	Dollar Fra	On behalf of the Com	mission mas 8/27/7

Enclosures(s)

CC:

Delner Franklin-Thomas, **District Director**

> Derrick Blythe, Attorney 126 Marshall Street Alex City, AL 35010

(Date Mailed)

Larkin Radney, Attorney Barnes & Radney, PC

1919 Radio Road

Alex City, AL 35010

Post Office Drawer 877 Alexander City, AL 35011-0877

NELSON'S ELECTRIC MOTOR SRVC

Enclosure with EEOC Form 161 (3/98)

INFORMATION RELATED TO FILING SUIT UNDER THE LAWS ENFORCED BY THE EEOC

(This information relates to filing suit in Federal or State court <u>under Federal law.</u>

If you also plan to sue claiming violations of State law, please be aware that time limits and other provisions of State law may be shorter or more limited than those described below.)

PRIVATE SUIT RIGHTS -- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA):

In order to pursue this matter further, you must file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) named in the charge <u>within 90 days</u> of the date you receive this Notice. Therefore, you should keep a record of this date. Once this 90-day period is over, your right to sue based on the charge referred to in this Notice will be lost. If you intend to consult an attorney, you should do so promptly. Give your attorney a copy of this Notice, and its envelope, and tell him or her the date you received it. Furthermore, in order to avoid any question that you did not act in a timely manner, it is prudent that your suit be filed within 90 days of the date this Notice was mailed to you (as indicated where the Notice is signed) or the date of the postmark, if later.

Your lawsuit may be filed in U.S. District Court or a State court of competent jurisdiction. (Usually, the appropriate State court is the general civil trial court.) Whether you file in Federal or State court is a matter for you to decide after talking to your attorney. Filing this Notice is not enough. You must file a "complaint" that contains a short statement of the facts of your case which shows that you are entitled to relief. Your suit may include any matter alleged in the charge or, to the extent permitted by court decisions, matters like or related to the matters alleged in the charge. Generally, suits are brought in the State where the alleged unlawful practice occurred, but in some cases can be brought where relevant employment records are kept, where the employment would have been, or where the respondent has its main office. If you have simple questions, you usually can get answers from the office of the clerk of the court where you are bringing suit, but do not expect that office to write your complaint or make legal strategy decisions for you.

PRIVATE SUIT RIGHTS -- Equal Pay Act (EPA):

EPA suits must be filed in court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment: back pay due for violations that occurred **more than 2 years (3 years)** before you file suit may not be collectible. For example, if you were underpaid under the EPA for work performed from 7/1/00 to 12/1/00, you should file suit before 7/1/02 – not 12/1/02 — in order to recover unpaid wages due for July 2000. This time limit for filing an EPA suit is separate from the 90-day filing period under Title VII, the ADA or the ADEA referred to above. Therefore, if you also plan to sue under Title VII, the ADA or the ADEA, in addition to suing on the EPA claim, suit must be filed within 90 days of this Notice and within the 2- or 3-year EPA back pay recovery period.

ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION -- Title VII and the ADA:

If you cannot afford or have been unable to obtain a lawyer to represent you, the U.S. District Court having jurisdiction in your case may, in limited circumstances, assist you in obtaining a lawyer. Requests for such assistance must be made to the U.S. District Court in the form and manner it requires (you should be prepared to explain in detail your efforts to retain an attorney). Requests should be made well before the end of the 90-day period mentioned above, because such requests do not relieve you of the requirement to bring suit within 90 days.

ATTORNEY REFERRAL AND EEOC ASSISTANCE -- All Statutes:

You may contact the EEOC representative shown on your Notice if you need help in finding a lawyer or if you have any questions about your legal rights, including advice on which U.S. District Court can hear your case. If you need to inspect or obtain a copy of information in EEOC's file on the charge, please request it promptly in writing and provide your charge number (as shown on your Notice). While EEOC destroys charge files after a certain time, all charge files are kept for at least 6 months after our last action on the case. Therefore, if you file suit and want to review the charge file, please make your review request within 6 months of this Notice. (Before filing suit, any request should be made within the next 90 days.)

IF YOU FILE SUIT, PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR COURT COMPLAINT TO THIS OFFICE.

Exhibit 2

Deposition of Patricia Wheeles

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Page 1
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           IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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           FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
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 4
     PATRICIA WHEELES,
 5
         Plaintiff,
 6
         VS.
                                        CASE NO.:
                                        3:07 CV1006-TFM
     NELSON'S ELECTRIC
     MOTOR SERVICES, GARY
                                       DEPOSITION OF:
 8
     NELSON, individually
                                        PATRICIA WHEELES
     and in his official
 9
     capacity, et. al.
10
         Defendant.
11
12
                  STIPULATIONS
13
         IT IS STIPULATED AND AGREED, by and
14
     between the parties through their respective
15
     counsel, that the deposition of:
16
                     PATRICIA WHEELES
17
     may be taken before Frances P. Looney,
18
     Commissioner and Notary Public, State at
19
     Large, at the law offices of Mr. Larkin Radney,
20
     Barnes and Radney, 80 North Central Avenue,
    Alexander City, Alabama 35010 on the 31st day of
21
22
    March, 2008, commencing at approximately
23
    10:00 a.m.
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			Depo of Fatricia Wheele.
	Page 2		Page 4
1	IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED that	1	of March, 2008, at the law offices of Mr. Larkin
2	the signature and the reading of the	2	Radney, 80 North Central Avenue, Alexander City,
3	deposition by the witness is waived, the	3	Alabama 35010 commencing at approximately
4	deposition to have the same force and effect	4	10:00 a.m., PATRICIA WHEELES, witness in the
5	as if full compliance had been had with all	5	above cause, for oral examination, whereupon the
6	laws and rules of Court relating to the taking	6	following proceedings were had:
7	of the depositions.	7	PATRICIA WHEELES
8	IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED that	8	being first duly sworn, was examined and
9	it shall not be necessary for any objections	9	testified as follows:
10	to be made by counsel to any questions, except	10	EXAMINATION
11	as to form or leading questions, and that	11	BY MR. RADNEY:
12	counsel for the parties may make objections	12	Q. State your name for the record, please.
13	and assign grounds at the time of the trial,	13	A. Patricia Wheeles.
14	or at the time said deposition is offered in	14	Q. Ms. Wheeles, of course, you know me. I'm
15	evidence, or prior thereto.	15	Larkin Radney. And I represent Nelson
16	***	16	Electric and the three individual defendants
17	APPEARANCES	17	in a lawsuit that's been filed on your
18		18	behalf in federal court. I'm going to ask
19	ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFF:	19	you a series of questions about you, your
20	Hon. Derrick Blythe	20	background, and the claims that you have
21	Attorney at Law	21	alleged in court. If I ask a question that
22	126 Marshall Street	22	you don't understand ask me to repeat myself
23	Alexander City, Alabama 35010	23	or make myself clear, and I'll attempt to do
	Page 3		Page 5
1	ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANT:	1	so. If you answer, I'll have to assume that
2	Hon. Larkin Radney	2	you understood the question. Is that fair
3	Barnes and Radney	3	enough?
4	80 North Central Avenue	4	A. Correct.
5	Alexander City, Alabama 35010	5	Q. Have you ever been deposed before? Have you
6		6	ever had a deposition taken of you before?
7	ALSO PRESENT:	7	A. Yes.
8	Renea Morgan	8	Q. So I assume you know somewhat of the
9	Louise Partika	9	background and the rules of the deposition.
10	EXHIBIT LIST	10	You have to say yes or no so the court
11	Defendant's Exhibit 1 - notes - Page 17	11	reporter can pick that up instead of an
12	Defendant's Exhibit 2 - agreement - Page 29	12	uh-huh and ugh-uh. If you need a break,
13	EVANIATION DVAD DADAM D	13	we'll take a break. If you need to confer
14	EXAMINATION BY MR. RADNEY: Page 4, 62	14	with your attorney we can certainly do
15	EXAMINATION BY MR. BLYTHE: Page 51	15	that. But I expect you to answer the
16	I Connece D. Learner C. 11. D. 11.	16	questions that I ask fully and completely.
17	I, Frances P. Looney, a Court Reporter of	17	A. Okay.
18	Alexander City, Alabama, and a Notary Public	18	Q. What is your address?
19	for the State of Alabama at Large, acting as	19	A. 1083 Moose Road, Alexander City, Alabama.
20	commissioner, certify that on this date,	20	Q. You're married to Terrel Wheeles?
21	pursuant to the Alabama Rules of Civil	21	A. Yes, I am.
22	Procedure and the foregoing stipulation of	22	Q. How long have you been married to Terrel?
1 22	gounged them are a last and a second	22	A TTI take as a second
23	counsel, there came before me on the 31st day	23	A. Thirteen years.

			· ·
	Page 6		Page 8
1	Q. And prior to that, were you married?	1	A. Computers and just computers basically and
2	A. Yes, I was.	2	some accounting.
3	Q. To whom?	3	Q. Where did you take your accounting courses?
4	A. Ronny Hannah.	4	A. In Birmingham.
5	Q. You have two children?	5	Q. UAB?
6	A. Yes, I do.	6	A. Yes.
7	Q. Who are they?	7	Q. But you did not get a degree?
8	A. Rhonda Hannah Blythe and Kevin Hannah.	8	A. No.
9	Q. Rhonda, of course, is your attorney's	9	Q. Did you graduate from Benjamin Russell?
10	A. Correct.	10	A. No, I did not.
11	Q wife? Your son what does he do?	11	Q. Where did you graduate high school?
12	A. He is corporate controller for Russell	12	A. From Goodwater.
13	Corporation in Fruit.	13	Q. What was your maiden name?
14	Q. What is your age?	14	A. Cullars, C-u-l-l-a-r-s.
15	A. 58.	15	Q. Upon graduation from high school, did you
16	Q. And birth date?	16	immediately go into a college situation, or
17	A. January the 1st, 1950 20th, 1950. I'm sorry.	17	did you become employed?
18	Q. You were employed by Nelson Electric in	18	A. No, I did not. I went to work at Russell Corp.
19	1999?	19	Q. How long did you work at Russell Corp?
20	A. Correct.	20	A. Twenty-two years.
21	Q. How old were you then?	21	Q. Where did you next go for employment?
22	A. 51, 50.	22	A. Russell Lands.
23	Q. And you left that employment in 2006; is	23	Q. Do you remember the year you went to Russell
	Page 7		Page 9
1	that correct?	1	Lands?
2	A. Correct.	2	A. No, I do not exactly.
3	Q. How old were you then?	3	Q. Approximately?
4	A. I was 56.	4	A. No. I'm not real sure to be able to say that
5	Q. Do you know Louise Partika?	5	and be honest about it.
6	A. Yes, I do.	6	Q. At some point you left the employment of
7	Q. Do you know what her age is?	7	Russell Lands; is that correct?
8	A. No, I do not.	8	A. Yes, I did.
9	Q. Is she older or younger than you?	9	Q. Did you file an EEOC charge against Russell
10	A. She's older.	10	Lands?
11	Q. Would you give me the benefit of your	11	MR. BLYTHE: Now, Larkin, one thing you
12	educational background?	12	might as well put this on the record we are
13	A. Well, I have several semesters out at the junior	13	under a nondisclosure agreement with Russell
14	college. And then I've also taken classes at	14	Lands in regards to anything surrounding that
15	UAB in Birmingham.	15	claim. I have instructed Ms. Wheeles
16	Q. Go ahead.	16	MR. RADNEY: Sure. I just want to know if
17	A. Numerous workshops.	17	she, in fact, filed one.
	Q. Do you have a degree in any particular	18	THE WITNESS: I don't think we filed an EEOC
18		19	claim, did we?
18 19	field?	19	
		20	MR. BLYTHE: I think we did.
19	field?		
19 20	field? A. No.	20	MR. BLYTHE: I think we did. MR. RADNEY: You had to.
19 20 21	field? A. No. Q. Do you have an associate degree?	20 21	MR. BLYTHE: I think we did.

saying that if a judge says I'm ordering you answer it. But you know the obligation we're under. MR. RADNEY: Absolutely, I do. Q. But you left the employment of Russell Lands. Did you file a court action against Russell Lands? I'm not asking you to disclose what occurred. I'm just asking did you? That's a matter of public record. MR. BLYTHE: It was an EEOC claim. That's and I filled in. Call her. So she did, and I falled in. Call her. So she did, and I falled in. Call her. So	
answer it. But you know the obligation we're under. MR. RADNEY: Absolutely, I do. Q. But you left the employment of Russell Lands. Did you file a court action against Russell Lands? I'm not asking you to disclose what occurred. I'm just asking did you? That's a matter of public record. 2 Q. What was the name of the temp? A. I don't remember. Q. What was the name of the temp? A. I don't remember. A. I would have to ask Rhonda. I don what her name was to be honest. Q. Do you have any source of income	
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4 MR. RADNEY: Absolutely, I do. 5 Q. But you left the employment of Russell 6 Lands. Did you file a court action against 7 Russell Lands? I'm not asking you to 8 disclose what occurred. I'm just asking did 9 you? That's a matter of public record. 4 Q. What was the name of the girl that friends of Rhonda? 5 A. I would have to ask Rhonda. I do what her name was to be honest. 8 Q. Do you have any source of income of the girl that friends of Rhonda? 9 A. I have a little small embroidery but	it was
 Q. But you left the employment of Russell Lands. Did you file a court action against Russell Lands? I'm not asking you to disclose what occurred. I'm just asking did you? That's a matter of public record. friends of Rhonda? A. I would have to ask Rhonda. I do what her name was to be honest. Q. Do you have any source of income A. I have a little small embroidery but 	it was
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8 disclose what occurred. I'm just asking did 8 Q. Do you have any source of income 9 you? That's a matter of public record. 9 A. I have a little small embroidery but	n't remember
9 you? That's a matter of public record. 9 A. I have a little small embroidery but	
·	
110 MR BIVTHE: It was an EEOC claim. That's 110 O. How long how you had that busin	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
as far as it got. It was settled during 11 A. I actually started it up after I lost r	
12 mediation. 12 had it as just something to a hob	•
Q. Do you recall when that was settled?	as just for
14 A. '99? 14 extra spending money.	
MR. BLYTHE: Something like that. That may 15 Q. As a hobby it did produce income	for you; is
16 be close. 16 that correct?	
17 A. Somewhere in that vicinity. 17 A. Some, not that much. It was most	tly I did things
18 Q. What were your job responsibilities at 18 for people for nothing.	
19 Russell Corp? 19 Q. This was during the time you were	e employed
20 A. At Russell Corp? 20 by Nelson Electric that it was a hob	by?
21 Q. Yes, ma'am. 21 A. Yes. There were times I charged.	It depended
22 A. I did various things at Russell Corp. I worked 22 on what it was, and, you know.	
out in the sewing room. And then I worked in 23 Q. Do you recall when you were sepa	rated from
Page 11	Page 13
1 customer service, worked quality control, and 1 Nelson Electric?	
2 just various different things. 2 A. Pardon?	_
Q. What did you do for Russell Lands? 3 Q. When were you separated from Ne	elson
4 A. I worked at Willow Point Country Club as the 4 Electric?	
5 administrative assistant. 5 A. August the 16th.	
6 Q. After your employment with Russell Lands did 6 Q. 2000 and	
7 you become employed with someone else? 7 A. 5 or 6. 6, I'm sorry. I had to stop	i i
8 A. Yes. 8 Q. Since that time do you have now h	
9 Q. Who was that? 9 source of income through the embr	oidery
10 A. Nelson Electric. 10 business?	
Q. When were you employed by Nelson Electric?	
12 A. In '99 I believe. 12 Q. Do you advertise?	
Q. Were you actually working as a temp and were 13 A. No.	
14 assigned to Nelson Electric? 14 Q. Do you have a sign out?	
A. Actually, I was not working as a temp. 15 A. I have a sign, yes.	
Actually you want me to explain this? 16 Q. Give me an idea or sense on a week	ekly basis
17 Q. Sure. 17 how much income you might draw	from the
A. Actually the girl that was over that temp force 18 embroidery work?	
was a friend of my daughter Rhonda's. They were 19 A. It just depends. Sometimes a cour	ple of hundred
20 needing someone to fill a position for a few 20 dollars, sometimes maybe 100, som	
21 weeks or a few days at Nelson Electric until 21 just depends on what it is I'm doing	
22 they could hire someone. She said, well, mother 22 Q. Do you file	- , ,
23 is sitting at home, not doing anything, just 23 A. Income tax. Yes, I do.	

		T	
1	Page 14 Q. Did you file one for 2006?	1	Page 16 Association?
2	A. Yes, I did.	2	A. I don't think so.
3	Q. Did you file one for 2007?	3	Q. And the church is now closed?
4	A. Yes, I did.	4	A. Correct.
5	Q. What income did you show on you income tax?	5	Q. Is it reopening? Do you know what the plans
6	A. I think it was like 19,000.	6	are for the church?
7	Q. 19,000 for the year?	7	A. No, it did will not reopen.
8	A. I did not bring it with me, but I think it was	8	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
9	close to 19,000 for the year 2007.	9	Q. Why did it close?
10	•	_	A. The pastor's health.
11	Q. What was it in 2006 if you recall?	10	Q. Who was the pastor?
1	A. I didn't show very much at all with that.	11	A. Jerry Wheeles.
12	MR. RADNEY: Derrick, can I get you to get	12	Q. Is that your
13	to me the 2007 income tax return?	13	A. Brother-in-law.
14	MR. BLYTHE: Sure.	14	Q. Do you attend a church now?
15	MR. RADNEY: And also 2006.	15	A. I do.
16	MR. BLYTHE: I was going to say, do you want	16	Q. Which one?
17	both of them?	17	A. Sixth Street Baptist.
18	MR. RADNEY: Yeah.	18	Q. You're not a member of it? Is that what
19	Q. Have you sought employment elsewhere since	19	you're telling me?
20	your separation from Nelson Electric?	20	A. Yes. I've not joined that church. We're just
21	A. No, I have not.	21	basically going around deciding where we want to
22	Q. Have you attempted to seek employment	22	spend our time and also First United Methodist.
23	anywhere?	23	Q. Do you know what religious affiliation the
	Page 15		Page 17
1	Page 15	1	Page 17
1 2	A. No.	1 2	other defendants in this case have?
2	A. No.Q. Have you made a decision not to become	2	other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not.
2	A. No.Q. Have you made a decision not to become employed publicly or just work for yourself?	2	other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not. Q. I know you have been involved in, of course,
2 3 4	A. No.Q. Have you made a decision not to become employed publicly or just work for yourself?A. I don't care to become employed with public	2 3 4	other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not. Q. I know you have been involved in, of course, this lawsuit. And you had an EEOC claim
2 3 4 5	A. No.Q. Have you made a decision not to become employed publicly or just work for yourself?A. I don't care to become employed with public dealing with people like I have had to deal	2 3 4 5	other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not. Q. I know you have been involved in, of course, this lawsuit. And you had an EEOC claim against Russell Lands. Have you filed any
2 3 4 5 6	A. No.Q. Have you made a decision not to become employed publicly or just work for yourself?A. I don't care to become employed with public dealing with people like I have had to deal with.	2 3 4 5 6	other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not. Q. I know you have been involved in, of course, this lawsuit. And you had an EEOC claim against Russell Lands. Have you filed any other lawsuits?
2 3 4 5 6 7	 A. No. Q. Have you made a decision not to become employed publicly or just work for yourself? A. I don't care to become employed with public dealing with people like I have had to deal with. Q. Are you just going to work for yourself so 	2 3 4 5 6 7	other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not. Q. I know you have been involved in, of course, this lawsuit. And you had an EEOC claim against Russell Lands. Have you filed any other lawsuits? A. No.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	 A. No. Q. Have you made a decision not to become employed publicly or just work for yourself? A. I don't care to become employed with public dealing with people like I have had to deal with. Q. Are you just going to work for yourself so to speak? 	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not. Q. I know you have been involved in, of course, this lawsuit. And you had an EEOC claim against Russell Lands. Have you filed any other lawsuits? A. No. Q. You been a plaintiff in any other lawsuit?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	 A. No. Q. Have you made a decision not to become employed publicly or just work for yourself? A. I don't care to become employed with public dealing with people like I have had to deal with. Q. Are you just going to work for yourself so to speak? A. Yep, as long as I can. 	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not. Q. I know you have been involved in, of course, this lawsuit. And you had an EEOC claim against Russell Lands. Have you filed any other lawsuits? A. No. Q. You been a plaintiff in any other lawsuit? A. No.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	 A. No. Q. Have you made a decision not to become employed publicly or just work for yourself? A. I don't care to become employed with public dealing with people like I have had to deal with. Q. Are you just going to work for yourself so to speak? A. Yep, as long as I can. Q. Your husband is retired, is he not? 	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not. Q. I know you have been involved in, of course, this lawsuit. And you had an EEOC claim against Russell Lands. Have you filed any other lawsuits? A. No. Q. You been a plaintiff in any other lawsuit? A. No. Q. Have you been a defendant in any lawsuits?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	 A. No. Q. Have you made a decision not to become employed publicly or just work for yourself? A. I don't care to become employed with public dealing with people like I have had to deal with. Q. Are you just going to work for yourself so to speak? A. Yep, as long as I can. Q. Your husband is retired, is he not? A. Yes, he is. 	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not. Q. I know you have been involved in, of course, this lawsuit. And you had an EEOC claim against Russell Lands. Have you filed any other lawsuits? A. No. Q. You been a plaintiff in any other lawsuit? A. No. Q. Have you been a defendant in any lawsuits? A. No.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	 A. No. Q. Have you made a decision not to become employed publicly or just work for yourself? A. I don't care to become employed with public dealing with people like I have had to deal with. Q. Are you just going to work for yourself so to speak? A. Yep, as long as I can. Q. Your husband is retired, is he not? A. Yes, he is. Q. Did does he work anywhere? 	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not. Q. I know you have been involved in, of course, this lawsuit. And you had an EEOC claim against Russell Lands. Have you filed any other lawsuits? A. No. Q. You been a plaintiff in any other lawsuit? A. No. Q. Have you been a defendant in any lawsuits? A. No. Q. Patricia, I notice you've got some notes in
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	 A. No. Q. Have you made a decision not to become employed publicly or just work for yourself? A. I don't care to become employed with public dealing with people like I have had to deal with. Q. Are you just going to work for yourself so to speak? A. Yep, as long as I can. Q. Your husband is retired, is he not? A. Yes, he is. Q. Did does he work anywhere? A. No, he does not. 	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not. Q. I know you have been involved in, of course, this lawsuit. And you had an EEOC claim against Russell Lands. Have you filed any other lawsuits? A. No. Q. You been a plaintiff in any other lawsuit? A. No. Q. Have you been a defendant in any lawsuits? A. No. Q. Patricia, I notice you've got some notes in front of you?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	 A. No. Q. Have you made a decision not to become employed publicly or just work for yourself? A. I don't care to become employed with public dealing with people like I have had to deal with. Q. Are you just going to work for yourself so to speak? A. Yep, as long as I can. Q. Your husband is retired, is he not? A. Yes, he is. Q. Did does he work anywhere? A. No, he does not. Q. He's retired from not only the fire 	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not. Q. I know you have been involved in, of course, this lawsuit. And you had an EEOC claim against Russell Lands. Have you filed any other lawsuits? A. No. Q. You been a plaintiff in any other lawsuit? A. No. Q. Have you been a defendant in any lawsuits? A. No. Q. Patricia, I notice you've got some notes in front of you? A. I do.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	 A. No. Q. Have you made a decision not to become employed publicly or just work for yourself? A. I don't care to become employed with public dealing with people like I have had to deal with. Q. Are you just going to work for yourself so to speak? A. Yep, as long as I can. Q. Your husband is retired, is he not? A. Yes, he is. Q. Did does he work anywhere? A. No, he does not. Q. He's retired from not only the fire department, but Russell Lands? A. Correct. 	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not. Q. I know you have been involved in, of course, this lawsuit. And you had an EEOC claim against Russell Lands. Have you filed any other lawsuits? A. No. Q. You been a plaintiff in any other lawsuit? A. No. Q. Have you been a defendant in any lawsuits? A. No. Q. Patricia, I notice you've got some notes in front of you? A. I do. Q. What are those? A. These were notes that I made on various things
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	 A. No. Q. Have you made a decision not to become employed publicly or just work for yourself? A. I don't care to become employed with public dealing with people like I have had to deal with. Q. Are you just going to work for yourself so to speak? A. Yep, as long as I can. Q. Your husband is retired, is he not? A. Yes, he is. Q. Did does he work anywhere? A. No, he does not. Q. He's retired from not only the fire department, but Russell Lands? A. Correct. Q. Are you a member of a church? 	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not. Q. I know you have been involved in, of course, this lawsuit. And you had an EEOC claim against Russell Lands. Have you filed any other lawsuits? A. No. Q. You been a plaintiff in any other lawsuit? A. No. Q. Have you been a defendant in any lawsuits? A. No. Q. Patricia, I notice you've got some notes in front of you? A. I do. Q. What are those? A. These were notes that I made on various things that had gone on and things that were said.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	 A. No. Q. Have you made a decision not to become employed publicly or just work for yourself? A. I don't care to become employed with public dealing with people like I have had to deal with. Q. Are you just going to work for yourself so to speak? A. Yep, as long as I can. Q. Your husband is retired, is he not? A. Yes, he is. Q. Did does he work anywhere? A. No, he does not. Q. He's retired from not only the fire department, but Russell Lands? A. Correct. Q. Are you a member of a church? A. I was. We closed our church. Q. What was the name of the church? 	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	 other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not. Q. I know you have been involved in, of course, this lawsuit. And you had an EEOC claim against Russell Lands. Have you filed any other lawsuits? A. No. Q. You been a plaintiff in any other lawsuit? A. No. Q. Have you been a defendant in any lawsuits? A. No. Q. Patricia, I notice you've got some notes in front of you? A. I do. Q. What are those? A. These were notes that I made on various things that had gone on and things that were said. Q. May I see them? MR. BLYTHE: Sure.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	 A. No. Q. Have you made a decision not to become employed publicly or just work for yourself? A. I don't care to become employed with public dealing with people like I have had to deal with. Q. Are you just going to work for yourself so to speak? A. Yep, as long as I can. Q. Your husband is retired, is he not? A. Yes, he is. Q. Did does he work anywhere? A. No, he does not. Q. He's retired from not only the fire department, but Russell Lands? A. Correct. Q. Are you a member of a church? A. I was. We closed our church. Q. What was the name of the church? A. Liberty Church at Willow Point. 	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not. Q. I know you have been involved in, of course, this lawsuit. And you had an EEOC claim against Russell Lands. Have you filed any other lawsuits? A. No. Q. You been a plaintiff in any other lawsuit? A. No. Q. Have you been a defendant in any lawsuits? A. No. Q. Patricia, I notice you've got some notes in front of you? A. I do. Q. What are those? A. These were notes that I made on various things that had gone on and things that were said. Q. May I see them? MR. BLYTHE: Sure. A. There you go.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	 A. No. Q. Have you made a decision not to become employed publicly or just work for yourself? A. I don't care to become employed with public dealing with people like I have had to deal with. Q. Are you just going to work for yourself so to speak? A. Yep, as long as I can. Q. Your husband is retired, is he not? A. Yes, he is. Q. Did does he work anywhere? A. No, he does not. Q. He's retired from not only the fire department, but Russell Lands? A. Correct. Q. Are you a member of a church? A. I was. We closed our church. Q. What was the name of the church? A. Liberty Church at Willow Point. Q. Was that associated with the Baptist church? 	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	 other defendants in this case have? A. No, I do not. Q. I know you have been involved in, of course, this lawsuit. And you had an EEOC claim against Russell Lands. Have you filed any other lawsuits? A. No. Q. You been a plaintiff in any other lawsuit? A. No. Q. Have you been a defendant in any lawsuits? A. No. Q. Patricia, I notice you've got some notes in front of you? A. I do. Q. What are those? A. These were notes that I made on various things that had gone on and things that were said. Q. May I see them? MR. BLYTHE: Sure. A. There you go. (Defendant's Exhibit 1, notes, marked for
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1.	Page 18		Page 20
1	you have brought to this deposition today;	1	yes, I destroyed the handwritten ones. I just
2	is that correct?	2	threw them away.
3	A. Correct.	3	Q. When did you start taking notes about when
4	Q. And do you have any other notes that you	4	things were happening at Nelson Electric?
5	have made that are not here?	5	A. Well, actually I guess about the time Renea came
6	A. No.	6	to work because of some things that had been
7	Q. Do you have any have you kept any of your	7	said to me before she came.
8	e-mails or e-mails of other employees of	8	Q. Patricia, I have read your complaint that's
9	Nelson Electric?	9	filed in federal court. If I understand it
10	A. No.	10	correctly, you claim that you have been
11	Q. Have you made copies of e-mails?	11	discriminated against due to your age, that
12	A. No.	12	you were terminated due to your age; is that
13	Q. Have you ever recorded the conversations of	13	correct?
14	anyone employed by Nelson Electric?	14	A. Well, he had to make room for people. He had to
15	A. Recorded like?	15	make room for people.
16	Q. Like with a tape recorder.	16	Q. Then are you saying that you weren't
17	A. No.	17	terminated due to your age?
18		18	A. Well, you read what he told me because I put
19	Q. Have you ever taken photographs of anyone A. No.	19	that on there. What he did he had hired Renea.
20	Q at work at Nelson Electric? Do you have	20	And he told me there was not room for three of
21	any memorandums or memos or notes that you	21	us. He couldn't afford to pay three of us to
22	have made of anything or active that went on	22	work in that office. And then after he let me
23	at Nelson Electric	23	go if I'm not mistaken within before on or
İ			
,	Page 19		Page 21
1	A. No.	1	about the 31st of August, he hired Debra Keel
2	A. No. Q while you were employed there? Patricia,	2	about the 31st of August, he hired Debra Keel from Russell which she was one of his contacts
2 3	A. No.Q while you were employed there? Patricia, you and I have got a bad habit. That is we	2	about the 31st of August, he hired Debra Keel from Russell which she was one of his contacts at Russell also.
2 3 4	A. No.Q while you were employed there? Patricia, you and I have got a bad habit. That is we interrupt the person we're talking with by	2 3 4	about the 31st of August, he hired Debra Keel from Russell which she was one of his contacts at Russell also. Q. Do you know what Debra Keel is doing?
2 3 4 5	 A. No. Q while you were employed there? Patricia, you and I have got a bad habit. That is we interrupt the person we're talking with by answering the question too fastly. So if 	2 3 4 5	about the 31st of August, he hired Debra Keel from Russell which she was one of his contacts at Russell also. Q. Do you know what Debra Keel is doing? A. From my knowledge is they did a rotation thing.
2 3 4 5 6	 A. No. Q while you were employed there? Patricia, you and I have got a bad habit. That is we interrupt the person we're talking with by answering the question too fastly. So if you'll just let me finish my question, and 	2 3 4 5 6	about the 31st of August, he hired Debra Keel from Russell which she was one of his contacts at Russell also. Q. Do you know what Debra Keel is doing? A. From my knowledge is they did a rotation thing. Debra Keel took over Renea's job. Renea took
2 3 4 5 6 7	A. No. Q while you were employed there? Patricia, you and I have got a bad habit. That is we interrupt the person we're talking with by answering the question too fastly. So if you'll just let me finish my question, and then you answer that will help Frances a	2 3 4 5 6 7	about the 31st of August, he hired Debra Keel from Russell which she was one of his contacts at Russell also. Q. Do you know what Debra Keel is doing? A. From my knowledge is they did a rotation thing. Debra Keel took over Renea's job. Renea took over Louise's job, and Louise took mine.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	 A. No. Q while you were employed there? Patricia, you and I have got a bad habit. That is we interrupt the person we're talking with by answering the question too fastly. So if you'll just let me finish my question, and then you answer that will help Frances a great deal. When did you type these notes out? A. Actually, it was right after I lost my job. I had notes of everything. And I typed them out and gave them to Derrick. Q. Where are the notes that you gave to Derrick that you took this from, or are these the notes that you gave to Derrick? A. Uh-huh. Q. That's a yes? A. Yes. 	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	about the 31st of August, he hired Debra Keel from Russell which she was one of his contacts at Russell also. Q. Do you know what Debra Keel is doing? A. From my knowledge is they did a rotation thing. Debra Keel took over Renea's job. Renea took over Louise's job, and Louise took mine. Q. What is the source of your information? A. People that were previously employed there that had left the company also. Q. Who are they? A. Mike Taylor for one. Q. Who else? A. We'll just stay with him. Q. No. If I ask, you've got to answer. A. I understand that. The others I'm not Mike Taylor was mainly the one that told me about that. Q. I need to know anybody else that talked to
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	 A. No. Q while you were employed there? Patricia, you and I have got a bad habit. That is we interrupt the person we're talking with by answering the question too fastly. So if you'll just let me finish my question, and then you answer that will help Frances a great deal. When did you type these notes out? A. Actually, it was right after I lost my job. I had notes of everything. And I typed them out and gave them to Derrick. Q. Where are the notes that you gave to Derrick that you took this from, or are these the notes that you gave to Derrick? A. Uh-huh. Q. That's a yes? A. Yes. Q. So there are no other notes? A. No. Q. Did you have some and destroy them, or is 	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	about the 31st of August, he hired Debra Keel from Russell which she was one of his contacts at Russell also. Q. Do you know what Debra Keel is doing? A. From my knowledge is they did a rotation thing. Debra Keel took over Renea's job. Renea took over Louise's job, and Louise took mine. Q. What is the source of your information? A. People that were previously employed there that had left the company also. Q. Who are they? A. Mike Taylor for one. Q. Who else? A. We'll just stay with him. Q. No. If I ask, you've got to answer. A. I understand that. The others I'm not Mike Taylor was mainly the one that told me about that. Q. I need to know anybody else that talked to you about what was happening at Nelson Electric after you left?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	 A. No. Q while you were employed there? Patricia, you and I have got a bad habit. That is we interrupt the person we're talking with by answering the question too fastly. So if you'll just let me finish my question, and then you answer that will help Frances a great deal. When did you type these notes out? A. Actually, it was right after I lost my job. I had notes of everything. And I typed them out and gave them to Derrick. Q. Where are the notes that you gave to Derrick that you took this from, or are these the notes that you gave to Derrick? A. Uh-huh. Q. That's a yes? A. Yes. Q. So there are no other notes? A. No. 	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	about the 31st of August, he hired Debra Keel from Russell which she was one of his contacts at Russell also. Q. Do you know what Debra Keel is doing? A. From my knowledge is they did a rotation thing. Debra Keel took over Renea's job. Renea took over Louise's job, and Louise took mine. Q. What is the source of your information? A. People that were previously employed there that had left the company also. Q. Who are they? A. Mike Taylor for one. Q. Who else? A. We'll just stay with him. Q. No. If I ask, you've got to answer. A. I understand that. The others I'm not Mike Taylor was mainly the one that told me about that. Q. I need to know anybody else that talked to you about what was happening at Nelson

<u> </u>		Ι	
	Page 22	,	Page 24
1 2	A. I was trying to think of their name is what I	1	A. I have no idea. I have never met her, only talked with her on the phone.
3	was trying to think of. It was a black guy that	2 3	•
	came there and took care of Gary's vehicles that		Q. When did you talk with her on the telephone? A. While I worked at Nelson Electric.
4	I did embroidery for his church, cleaned Gary's	4	
5	vehicles up.	5	Q. Due to business?
6	Q. You don't recall his name?	6	A. Yes.
7	A. I can't think of his name right now.	7	Q. At the time that you were first employed at
8	Q. Look at this list of people that you have	8	Nelson Electric, tell me what your job
9	typed out as being employed at	9	duties were.
10	A. Yes, while I was there at different times.	10	A. I did payroll, did the payables, and did the
11	Q. Do you recognize names on that list?	11	bank statements. And I made all the deposits
12	A. Mike Taylor was the only one on this list.	12	for the company and whatever he needed me to do.
13	Q. So Mike Taylor would be the person that you	13	Q. Louise was also in the office; is that
14	mainly gained your information from	14	correct?
15	A. Right.	15	A. Yes.
16	Q what has occurred at Nelson Electric as	16	Q. Were y'all the only two ladies in the
17	far as job duties after you left; is that	17	office?
18	correct?	18	A. Yes.
19	A. Correct. He was the one that told me that they	19	Q. And what were your job duties at the time
20	had hired Debra Keel.	20	that Renea Morgan was employed?
21	MR. RADNEY: Let me for the record state	21	A. Same thing I had done it for seven years.
22	that Defendant's Exhibit 1 is four pages and	22	Q. What were your job duties at the time of the
23	clipped back together.	23	termination?
1	Page 23 MR. BLYTHE: Larkin, just so the record is	1	Page 25
2	preserved I'm just going to object to the use of	1 2	A. Actually, nothing really because Louise had
3	that as attorney/client privileged information	3	given Renea her job, her job responsibilities; and Louise had taken mine.
4	and/or work product, but go ahead.		
5	Q. Well, let me ask you this, Patricia. Why	4	Q. At the time of your termination?
6	were you terminated?	5	A. Yes.
7	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	6	Q. Louise had give them to Renea?
8	A. Gary Nelson just told me that he didn't have room for three of us in the office and that he	7	A. All of her responsibilities or the majority of
9	wanted Renea to take over the office, that	8	them. She took mine.
10	· •	9	Q. Louise took yours?
11	Louise would be retiring in about four years. By then Renea would learn how to do things.	10	A. Uh-huh, all except payroll. I was still doing
12	Q. So he was making a decision based upon the	11	payroll. That was basically all they had left
13	fact that he didn't need that additional	12	just about for me to do.
		13	Q. What do you have to do for payroll?
14 15	employee? A. That's what he said.	14	A. Basically, have to do a report on everyone's
		15	hours and then I had well, I faxed them over
16	Q. Do you have anything to refute that	16	to the company that was doing the payroll which
17	decision?	17	they in turn faxed well, they in turn paid
18	A. Undoubtedly he must have needed someone because	18	over with Wachovia Bank is where our payroll
19	she took that over, and he hired Debra to do	19	came through. It's direct deposited.
20	Renea's job out in the shop.	20	Q. You had or Nelson Electric had what we call
21	Q. Do you know how old Debra Keel is?	21	a third party administrator for payroll
22	A. No, I do not.	22	called McBee payroll?
23	Q. Is she over 40, under 40?	23	A. Correct.
E0.00.00000000000000000000000000000000			

	D 26		
1	Page 26 Q. You would furnish to McBee Payroll the	1	Page 28 Ricky Lashley would fire you the moment that
2	information for them to transfer and get	2	you walked into the plant?
3	moneys to the employees?	3	A. Gary said he would see to it Ricky Lashley fired
4	A. Correct.	4	me.
5	Q. Did you work 40 hours a week?	5	Q. Did you have a good working relationship
6	A. Yes, I did.	6	with Ricky Lashley?
7	Q. Did you do this particular job, payroll job,	7	A. Well, we talked. He was always stopping by my
8	on a particular day?	8	office and talking about different things.
9	A. Yes, I did.	9	Q. Did you consider yourself to have a good
10	Q. What day was that?	10	working relationship with Ricky Lashley?
11	A. I had to do it on Wednesday because everything	11	A. I guess.
12	had to be faxed in on Wednesday due to McBee	12	Q. That mean you don't know?
13	having to get the direct deposits ready.	13	A. To my knowledge, yes.
14	Q. So whatever you did to organize the payroll	14	Q. Did you type up an agreement and give to
15	information for McBee, you did it on	15	Gary concerning your termination?
16	Wednesday; is that correct?	16	A. Well, yes. Would you like for me to explain
17	A. Wednesday mornings, yes.	17	that?
18	Q. Do you know what Renea's duties were with	18	Q. I'm going to ask you about that. What was
19	Nelson Electric immediately after your	19	that?
20	termination?	20	A. Actually, everything Gary offered to me I
21	A. No, I do not.	21	accepted because I needed to have a job to have
22	Q. Do you know whether or not she has taken	22	insurance and help pay bills. So the last time
23	over any of your job responsibilities?	23	that he came in there the day before he let me
			and the facility and any persite he let me
	Page 27		Page 29
1	A. I do not.	1	go, he started discussing with me, well, I will
2	Q. Do you know if her job duties have changed	1 2	pay you "X" amount of dollars to leave. And
		2	pay you A amount of dollars to leave. And
3	at all since your termination?	3	then I'll pay your insurance, and you can work
3 4	at all since your termination? A. I'm not there. I don't have a clue.		
]	at all since your termination? A. I'm not there. I don't have a clue. Q. I understand your testimony is that you were	3	then I'll pay your insurance, and you can work
4 5 6	at all since your termination?A. I'm not there. I don't have a clue.Q. I understand your testimony is that you were terminated because Mr. Nelson made a	3 4	then I'll pay your insurance, and you can work part-time. And I will cover your insurance with
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4 5 6 7 8 9	at all since your termination? A. I'm not there. I don't have a clue. Q. I understand your testimony is that you were terminated because Mr. Nelson made a decision that there wasn't sufficient amount of work to be done in the office by three ladies; is that correct?	3 4 5 6 7	then I'll pay your insurance, and you can work part-time. And I will cover your insurance with that. I agreed on that. Q. So you agreed to work part-time or as needed?
4 5 6 7 8 9	 at all since your termination? A. I'm not there. I don't have a clue. Q. I understand your testimony is that you were terminated because Mr. Nelson made a decision that there wasn't sufficient amount of work to be done in the office by three ladies; is that correct? A. That's what he said. 	3 4 5 6 7 8	then I'll pay your insurance, and you can work part-time. And I will cover your insurance with that. I agreed on that. Q. So you agreed to work part-time or as needed? A. Yes, to cover the insurance.
4 5 6 7 8 9 10	 at all since your termination? A. I'm not there. I don't have a clue. Q. I understand your testimony is that you were terminated because Mr. Nelson made a decision that there wasn't sufficient amount of work to be done in the office by three ladies; is that correct? A. That's what he said. Q. Did you and he discuss you going to Opelika 	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	then I'll pay your insurance, and you can work part-time. And I will cover your insurance with that. I agreed on that. Q. So you agreed to work part-time or as needed? A. Yes, to cover the insurance. (Defendant's Exhibit 2, agreement, marked for identification) Q. I'm going to show you what I've marked as
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	Page 30		Page 32
1	that correct?	1	A. Yes.
2	A. I would work part-time, and then come back full	2	Q. In your complaint you indicate that Gary
3	time when it was needed.	3	Nelson was your supervisor?
4	Q. So you felt like you could still do your job	4	A. He was also.
5	at Nelson Electric regardless of what all	5	Q. You had two supervisors?
6	was going on with Renea or Louise or anybody	6	A. Yes.
7	else that you had interpersonal	7	Q. Renea was not a supervisor?
8	relationships with?	8	A. No.
9	A. I was going to attempt that because I needed the	9	Q. Want to be sure I'm clear about this because
10	money to pay bills and insurance.	10	I'm confused about what everybody's duties
11	Q. But you would come back based on this	11 .	were. Your job duties didn't change from
12	agreement?	12	the day you were employed in 1999 till the
13	A. Well, I agreed to do that. I agreed with	13	day you were terminated or separated in
14	everything he asked me to do.	14	2006; is that correct?
15	Q. What happened to the agreement?	15	A. Well, only when Louise took over a portion of my
16	A. Gary changed his mind.	16	job of the payables, yes. I still cut the
17	Q. Do you know why? Did he tell you why he	17	checks to make the payables, but she took over a
18	changed his mind? That's a no. She has to	18	large portion of that.
19	write that.	19	Q. But Renea didn't take over your job?
20	A. No, I'm not sorry.	20	A. No, Renea took Louise's job.
21	Q. Let me ask you this way. If, in fact, y'all	21	Q. What were your wages while you were working
22	had gone through this agreement and y'all	22	at Nelson Electric?
23	both agreed to it and he had called you back	23	A. I really don't remember to be honest.
	Page 31		Page 33
1	to work part-time or even full time, would	1	Q. Do you recall what your annual income was
2	you have gone back and worked part-time	2	from Nelson Electric?
3	and/or full time?	3	A. About 23 I believe around 23,000 a year,
4	A. Yes, I would have due to the fact that I needed	4	somewhere in that vicinity.
5	the money.	5	Q. Did you have certain benefits?
6	Q. That's pretty much a lot of people work	6	A. Yes, I did.
7	for that reason, do they not?	7	Q. What benefits did you have?
8	A. Yeah, got to have that.	8	A. I had a 401K and insurance and well, all
9	Q. As far as you can tell me today, Mr. Nelson	9	type, you know, the cancer insurance as well as
10	terminated you based upon his business	10	health and dental.
11	decision to, I suppose, decrease the amount	11	Q. Did you pay for that or the company pay for
12	of personnel he's paying in the office?	12	it?
13	A. I guess, yes.	13	A. The company paid for it.
14	Q. When you were employed at Nelson's Electric	14	Q. Did you pay any portion of it?
15	Motor Service, did you have a title?	15	A. Not on health and dental. Cancer I paid all of
16	A. No.	16	it.
17	Q. Your employer was, in fact, Nelson Electric	17	Q. On the 401K did the company place money in
18	Services, the corporation, was it not?	18	that account for you, or did you place the
19	A. Yes.	19	money in the account for you?
20	Q. Louise Partika nor Renea Morgan employed	20	A. A portion of it was mine, and the other portion
21	you, nor did they supervise you, did they?	21	was Nelson Electric.
21		1	
22	A. Louise was a supervisor, yes.	22	Q. When you terminated, did you obtain your
	A. Louise was a supervisor, yes.Q. She was a supervisor?	22 23	Q. When you terminated, did you obtain your 401K funds?

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$\begin{vmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{vmatrix}$	A. I did eventually.	1	Renea made a statement to Louise have you seen
2	Q. Did you roll those over into an IRA?	2	Patricia's little angel earrings? I wonder if
3	A. Yes, I did.	3	she thinks they're going to save her and protect
4	Q. Do you have presently have insurance?	4	her? And then a little while later on in the
5	A. Yes, I do.	5	month, Louise well, Renea made the statement
6	Q. With whom?	6	does Patricia not realize everything that we're
7	A. Blue Cross-Blue Shield.	7	doing to her and saying to her is things that
8	Q. Who pays that?	8	Gary Nelson has told us to say and do? And
9	A. I do.	9	Louise's response was, yeah, I wonder where her
10	Q. Does your husband not having insurance	10	Jesus is going to be when Gary does what he does
11	through the retirement system?	11	to her?
12	A. Yes, he does.	12	Q. What did you think they meant by that, when
13	Q. You can't get on his policy?	13	Gary does what he's going to do to her?
14	A. No.	14	A. I have no idea. I wondered myself.
15	Q. Why?	15	Q. What did Gary do to you?
16	A. Well, his is like Medicaid and Medicare. His is	16	A. Well, a few days later he came in there and told
17 18	not like retirement from Russell Lands. That doesn't carry over.	17 18	me I was going Opelika or a few weeks later. I
19		19	thought, well, that must have been what they were talking about.
20	Q. If I understand the job delineations and	20	Q. Well, you didn't mind going to Opelika
21	duties, then Louise replaced you so to speak	21	though, did you?
22	with your job duties is that; is that correct now?	22	A. Well, I didn't care to drive to Opelika. I had
23	A. Yes.	23	already done that before for him.
23	A. 163.	23	already done that before for film.
	Page 35		Page 37
1	Q. In your complaint you seem to allege that	1	Q. But you were willing to go back?
- 2	you worked in a hostile work environment?	2	A. To have a job I didn't have a choice. That's
3	A. Yes.	3	exactly what he told me. If you want to work
4	Q. Would you describe that for me? What do you	4	for Nelson Electric you will go to the Opelika
5	mean by that?	5	shop.
6	A. Well, false accusations for one.	6	Q. I want to be sure I understand. You say in
7	Q. Okay. People telling things about you or	7	March I purchased a pair of angel earrings.
8	saying things about you that weren't true?	8	I'm reading Defendant's Exhibit 1. March, I
9	A. Correct.	9	purchased a pair angel earrings. I wore
10	Q. What else?	10	them to work. Louise and Renea made sure I
11	A. Just a lot of cussing and all going on there.	11	heard their conversation concerning
12	Q. Anything else?	12	A. Correct.
13	A. Not that I can think of.	13	Q. And that happened in March then?
14	Q. Have you read your complaint that you have	14	A. Yes.
15	filed?	15	Q. According to your notes?
16	A. Yes, I have.	16	A. Yes.
17	Q. You make statements in there about some sort	17	Q. Was there anything else that you can recall
18	of religious persecution. What do you mean	18	or tell me today that anyone at Nelson
19	by that?	19	Electric did that would make the work place
20	A. It was statements that Louise and Renea had	20	hostile as far as your religious beliefs?
21	made.	21	A. Well, just, you know, the cussing that goes on.
22	Q. What did they say to you?	22	You know, it was awful. Ted, every time you'd
23	A. I had purchased some little angel earrings. And	23	go back there is was G-D this, M-F this. It was

		· • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	·
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1	a constant thing.	1	had gotten injured. I said would you please sit
2	Q. When you say go back there you mean go back	2	down with me. I need to get this paperwork in
3	to the shop?	3	to worker's comp. Well, he just flew off the
4	A. Go back to the back of the shop.	4	handle and started cussing. I told Gary about
5	Q. Did you ask them not to cuss in front of	5	it when he got there. And Gary said, oh, he
6	you?	6	cussed you for doing your job? And I said,
7	A. I did.	7.	yeah, I was trying to do my job.
8	Q. What about anything else on the front of the	8	Q. What did he say to you?
9	office side of the building? Did anybody	9	A. I don't have blankety-blank time to sit and fool
10	else in any way discriminate excuse me,	10	with this and write that down. It don't matter
11	discriminate against you due to your	11	whether worker's comp gets it or not. They need
12	religion?	12	to just be paying it.
13	A. No. Just the making fun of the earrings and	13	Q. He wasn't cussing you then? Just cussing
14	where's her Jesus.	14	the situation?
15	Q. Where is her Jesus now statement occurred	15	A. Cussing while he was talking.
16	when? Could it have been in March also?	16	Q. Anything else you can think of? Is that a
17	A. Could have been.	17	no?
18	Q. March of 2006?	18	A. No. I was thinking. I'm sorry. Trying to
19	A. Uh-huh.	19	think.
20	Q. Is that a yes?	20	Q. Do you know what Renea Morgan was making at
21	A. Yes. I'm sorry.	21	the time of your termination? Was she
22	Q. Anything else concerning religious	22	making more or less than you?
23	discrimination other than the cussing in the	23	A. She was making \$.25 an hour less than me.
23	also initiation other than the cassing in the	23	The one was making \$125 arr hour less than me.
	Page 39	•	Page 41
1	back of the shop and that one instance?	1	Q. Do you know what sort of bonus she received
2	A. The two incidents.	2	the Christmas before or whenever the bonuses
3	Q. Cussing in the back of the shop and that	3	were delivered?
4	incident; is that correct?	4	A. I'm the one that did the bonuses, but I can't
5	A. Those are two different incidents right there	5	tell you right off the top of my head.
6	with Louise and Renea's conversations were at	6	Q. Was her bonus less or more than yours?
7	two different times.	7	A. It's not a whole lot of difference. I think
8	Q. And that occurred in March you think of	8	hers was less.
9	2006?	9	Q. You make a statement in the complaint that
10	A. Correct.	10	you purchased a vehicle that would use less
11	Q. As far as the cussing in the back of the	11	gas so you could travel to Opelika?
12	shop, were they cussing at you or just	12	A. Correct.
13	cussing in general?	13	Q. That Gary made it clear to you that he was
14	A. Ted just cusses when he breaths.	14	not going to pay you gas mileage, but he
15	Q. Ted who?	15	paid Brian Voss' gas mileage?
16	A. Ted Bradika.	16	A. Correct.
17	Q. Anyone else cuss back there?		
18	A. Yes, Doug.	17	Q. When you ran errands for Nelson Electric in
	-	18	and around Alexander City, you were
19	Q. Were they cussing at you, or were they	19	reimbursed for your gas, were you not?
20	cussing in general?	20	A. Once a month they would pay for a fill-up.
21	A. Doug cussed me out one day for doing my job. I	21	Q. Right. And that's for your running around
22	Day to take care of worker's come. I had to see	22	doing Nolcon Floctric business in Alexander
22	had to take care of worker's comp. I had to go		doing Nelson Electric business in Alexander
22 23	back there one day and get him to sit down. He	23	City?

		<u> </u>	
	Page 42	,	Page 44
1	A. Correct.	1	radiation she had to take. And she said, yeah,
2 3	Q. Did you understand that Bryan Voss was also	2	I'm glad she's a strong person because she'll
3 4	delivering items to customers in and about Opelika and Alex. City with his vehicle?	3 4	survive when things come out about me and Gary. Q. Anything else?
5		5	A. And Louise made a statement before Renea came to
	A. Well, I do not know because I was just told he	6	work there that she knew that Renea was the one
6	was being reimbursed for his gas going back and	1	·
7	forth every month to Nelson Electric in Opelika.	7	that Gary Nelson was having an affair with. She
8	Q. You state in your complaint that you also	8	had always accused him of having an affair with someone ever since I had been there. But the
9	worked in a hostile environment due to a	9	· ·
10	sexual relationship between Renea and Gary.	10	day that she found out Renea was coming and what
11	Tell me facts that you know concerning that	11	he was going to start Renea off at she said I
12	sexual relationship.	12	know for a fact that's who he's been having an
13	A. Well, there was quite a few times that I would	13	affair with because he hangs out over there all
14	walk out into the shop and they would be like	14	the time with her. And he's never started a
15	real close up to each other. And she'd be	15	woman off in this office at top dollar like he
16	staring up in his eyes batting her little	16	is her.
17	eyelids and grinning in his face. And then they	17	Q. Anything else you can think of?
18	would be like sitting right up real close to	18	A. Not right off the top of my head, no.
19	each other sometimes. And when you'd walk up	19	Q. When did you last recall seeing Gary and
20	one of them would scatter. And then it was some	20	Renea together in a away that you describe
21	things that Renea had said.	21	either being close or talking very close
22	Q. Let me make sure I understand. The sexual	22	together?
23	relationships you're talking about were not	23	A. The day before Gary let me go.
	Page 43		
			Page 4E I
1 1		1	Page 45 O. And when did the conversation occur with
1 2	directed toward you?	1 2	Q. And when did the conversation occur with
2	directed toward you? A. No.	2	Q. And when did the conversation occur with Louise?
2 3	directed toward you? A. No. Q. I mean Gary Nelson or anyone else sexually	2 3	Q. And when did the conversation occur with Louise?A. The conversation that Louise made about Gary
2 3 4	directed toward you? A. No. Q. I mean Gary Nelson or anyone else sexually harassed you	2 3 4	Q. And when did the conversation occur with Louise?A. The conversation that Louise made about Gary having the affair that he knew that Renea was
2 3 4 5	directed toward you? A. No. Q. I mean Gary Nelson or anyone else sexually harassed you A. No.	2 3 4 5	Q. And when did the conversation occur with Louise?A. The conversation that Louise made about Gary having the affair that he knew that Renea was the one that he had been having an affair with
2 3 4 5 6	directed toward you? A. No. Q. I mean Gary Nelson or anyone else sexually harassed you A. No. Q directly?	2 3 4 5 6	Q. And when did the conversation occur with Louise?A. The conversation that Louise made about Gary having the affair that he knew that Renea was the one that he had been having an affair with all these years, the two days before she came to
2 3 4 5 6 7	directed toward you? A. No. Q. I mean Gary Nelson or anyone else sexually harassed you A. No. Q directly? A. No.	2 3 4 5 6 7	Q. And when did the conversation occur with Louise?A. The conversation that Louise made about Gary having the affair that he knew that Renea was the one that he had been having an affair with all these years, the two days before she came to work.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	directed toward you? A. No. Q. I mean Gary Nelson or anyone else sexually harassed you A. No. Q directly? A. No. Q. But your testimony is that there was some	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q. And when did the conversation occur with Louise?A. The conversation that Louise made about Gary having the affair that he knew that Renea was the one that he had been having an affair with all these years, the two days before she came to work.Q. Did you warn Gary about Renea before he
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			•
	Page 46		Page 48
1	A. I still did my job.	1	religious beliefs, did it, her sticking her
2	Q. I mean it didn't affect your ability to do	2	tongue out?
3	the job in the work place, did it?	3	A. No, it was just her attitude.
4	A. No.	4	Q. Wasn't any sort of sexual connotation of
5	Q. Did either the religious or sexual	5	what was going on in the office?
6	discrimination that you claim didn't affect	6	A. Just her attitude.
7	your ability to come to work every day and	7	Q. Did you complain to Gary about what you saw
8	work	8	or what you conceived it to be a sexual
9	A. Well, it was hard, Larkin. It was very hard to	9	relationship between he and Renea?
10	have to go in there. And just like the thievery	10	A. No, I did not complain to him about that.
11	that Renea accused me of about water. Gary	11	Q. Did you complain to him about any of the
12	liked bottled water. I liked it. From the time	12	religious persecution issues you've talked
13	I started working there, I started bringing	13	about?
14	bottled water to work there. Then Gary would	14	A. As a matter of fact, I was going to talk with
15	drink it. Finally, one day he came in there. I	15	him about that one day. Then he told me that he
16	knew someone was drinking it, but I could have	16	didn't care what Renea or Louise either one did
17	cared less. And he came in there and said,	17	or said, nor anyone else as far as that was
18	Patricia, I've been drinking some of your water,	18	concerned.
19	your bottled water. I said, well, that's fine.	19	Q. So you didn't get to talk to him about it?
20	And he said how about getting some money and	20	A. No.
21	going and buying me and you some water. So from	21	Q. About the religious issues?
22	that day on for every case that I purchased	22	A. Correct.
23	through Nelson Electric with Gary Nelson's	23	Q. During the last two years were you employed
1	Page 47 money, I purchased a case with mine. And	4	Page 49
2	anybody it didn't matter who it was,	1	by the church?
3	customers, whoever, wanted water, they knew that	2	A. I was not employed by the church. I was never
4	that bottled water was in the refrigerator. And	3	employed by the church.
5	they got it.	4	Q. Have you ever been treated by a psychologist
6	Q. Anything else that you can think of	5	or psychiatrist or anyone in the mental
7	regarding your work that you couldn't	7	health industry?
8	perform due to either the sexual	7	A. No.
9	connotations as you saw it between Renea and	8	Q. Did you seek treatment for any mental
10	Gary and/or the religious issues?	9 10	distress or emotions since your termination from Nelson Electric?
11	A. Well, there was just a lot of conflict there.	11	·
12	Q. Other than sexual and religious? Is that	12	 A. No. But my nerves have certainly calmed down quite a bit.
13	what you're saying?	13	· •
14	A. There was just a lot of conflict with remarks	13 14	Q. Since your termination?
15	being made every day. And Renea would walk by		A. Since I'm away from them every day.
16	my office. I talked to Gary about it one day.	15	Q. Derrick has given to me a copy of what in
17	I said she'll walk by my office, and if I turn	16 17	federal court we call initial disclosures.
18	and look she'll stick out her tongue or she'll	17	And he has named you as a witness, and he's
	and rook she it suck out their tongue of She it	18	also named employees at Nelson Electric as
	-	10	
19	make a face. So she finally stopped that.	19	potential witnesses. Do you know of any
19 20	make a face. So she finally stopped that. She'd just start giving me dirty looks when	20	other witnesses outside of Nelson Electric
19 20 21	make a face. So she finally stopped that. She'd just start giving me dirty looks when she'd walk by if I turned around and looked to	20 21	other witnesses outside of Nelson Electric that may testify on your behalf?
19 20 21 22	make a face. So she finally stopped that. She'd just start giving me dirty looks when she'd walk by if I turned around and looked to see who was coming in the door.	20 21 22	other witnesses outside of Nelson Electric that may testify on your behalf? A. No, I do not.
19 20 21	make a face. So she finally stopped that. She'd just start giving me dirty looks when she'd walk by if I turned around and looked to	20 21	other witnesses outside of Nelson Electric that may testify on your behalf?

	Page 50		Page 52
1	complained to you or have you heard of	1	after.
2	anyone complain regarding either sexual,	2	Q. And do you have any idea how old Debra is?
3	religious, or age discrimination at Nelson	3	A. Not really. But I know she's younger than I am.
4	Electric?	4	Q. And I know that Gary had said that he
5	A. No, not on age.	5	couldn't keep three, I think, office
6	Q. How about sexual discrimination? You know	6	employees or something like that?
7	anybody that's been sexually discriminated	7	A. Three ladies in the office.
8	there?	8	Q. And that was the reason he was going to let
9	A. No.	9	you go?
10	Q. And religiously persecuted or discriminated	10	A. Correct.
11	against at Nelson Electric?	11	Q. How soon after he let you go did he hire
12	A. No.	12	Debra Keel?
13	Q. You were not terminated due to some sexual	13	A. Within a couple of weeks to my understanding.
14	discrimination, were you?	14	Q. And you make reference that she was a,
15	A. He never told me why.	15	quote, contact at Russell Corporation. Why
16	Q. Well, and you weren't discriminated against	16	is that important?
17	by termination due to your religious	17	A. Because she was just like Renea. Renea was one
18	beliefs, were you?	18	of his contacts at Russell also. They worked in
19	A. He never told me why.	19	the office where he placed his orders. They
20	Q. So you don't know why you were terminated?	20	would contact him to see if he needed anything
21	A. No, I do not.	21	· -
22	MR. RADNEY: Thank you, ma'am. Give me one	22	when they were placing their orders, or they would order through Gary actually. Actually,
23	second.	23	
23	Second.	23	it's what it was for things that they needed
1			
	Page 51		Page 53
1	(Break)	1	they ordered through Gary.
2	(Break) MR. RADNEY: That's all I have.	2	they ordered through Gary. Q. Why would Renea and Debra come to work from
2	(Break) MR. RADNEY: That's all I have. Thank you.	2 3	they ordered through Gary. Q. Why would Renea and Debra come to work from Russell for Gary? Do you have any idea?
2 3 4	(Break) MR. RADNEY: That's all I have. Thank you. MR. BLYTHE: I have got a few questions just	2 3 4	they ordered through Gary. Q. Why would Renea and Debra come to work from Russell for Gary? Do you have any idea? A. They were his contacts. And Debra I know was
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			Depo of Patricia Wheeles
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1	forth to Opelika gas wise. And the Durango is a	1	Q. When you started having trouble towards the
2	lot more expensive.	2	end of your employment with Nelson Electric,
3	Q. Were there other employees with Nelson	3	were there certain things that Gary had
4	Electric that had to drive back and forth to	4	asked of you?
5	Opelika?	5	A. Yes.
6	A. Yes, there was.	6	Q. Just explain that to me. What was going on
7	Q. Who were they?	7	there at the end?
8	A. Well, Ricky Lashley for one. But, of course, he	8	A. Well, asking me to go to Opelika. And I talked
9	used a company vehicle to drive back and forth.	9	with him about that. I said, you know, I don't
10	He was purchased a new one. Well, he first took	10	think it's right that I should be the one to
11	Ricky Patterson's truck. Then they purchased	11	have to go. I'm the only one that does this
12	him a new one later on. And then Brian Voss	12	job. There's Cara Lee, Renea, and Louise all
13	drove back and forth in his personal vehicle.	13	three did the same job. None did what I did.
14	Q. Let me stop you first about the first guy.	14	Why should I be the one having to go to
15	What was his name?	15	Opelika? They were wanting to let Cara Lee go
16	A. Ricky Lashley.	16	according to Ricky Lashley because she was
17	Q. And you say they purchased a company	17	always out of work.
18	vehicle. Do you mean Mr. Nelson purchased	Į.	
19	him a company vehicle?	18	Q. Who is this Cara Lee? Where was she
20	A. Yes.	19	employed?
21	Q. That was for him to drive back and forth in?	20	A. At the Opelika shop.
22		21	Q. You had actually been working for Nelson
23	A. Yes, and to do company business in.	22	Electric longer than Renea; is that correct?
23	Q. You say Mr. Voss drove back and forth?	23	A. Yes, it is.
	Page 55		Page 57
1	A. Yes, he did.	1	Q. Was there any explanation given to you why
2	Q. Is that Brian Voss?	2	Renea was not the person that was going to
3	A. That is correct.	3	have to drive to Opelika?
4	Q. Were there any special considerations made	4	A. Yes, it was.
5	by Mr. Nelson for Mr. Voss?	5	Q. What was that?
6	A. Well, he paid him once well, sometimes twice	6	A. Gary said he did not want her down there. He
7	a month, at least once a month and every once in	7	wanted her at the Alexander City office. That's
8	a while it was twice a month \$100 on each check	8	when he told me that Louise would be retiring in
9	that he gave him for gas money. That's what was	9	four years and that Renea by then would be able
10	put on the check. It was for gas.	10	to run that office by herself, and there would
11	Q. Did he make and I say he did Mr. Nelson	11	be only one female in that office within four
12	make any provision to buy you gas or	12	years because by then the work load for the
13	anything like that?	13	Alexander City office would be so low it would
14	A. No, he did not.	14	require only one person, one lady, to work in
15	Q. To your knowledge is Brian Voss still	15	the office. And all the business would be in
16	employed with Nelson Electric?	16	the Opelika shop where there would be one or
17	A. To my knowledge, yes.	17	more females in the office there.
18	Q. And, Patricia, did you need this job with	18	Q. Did this seem fair to you, Patricia?
19	Nelson Electric?	19	MR. RADNEY: Object to the form.
20	A. Yes, I did.	20	Q. Go ahead and answer the question.
21	Q. Why?	21	A. No, I do not think it's fair.
22	A. You know, we have to have food on the table and	22	
22	nav hills	22	Q. Let me ask you this. As far as you know

23

23

pay bills.

today, how many females are working in the

			Depo of Familia Wheeles
	Page 58		Page 60
1	office at Nelson Electric?	1	A. Well, she's younger than I am.
2	A. The one in Alexander City, there's three.	2	Q. Well, do you believe there was some type
3	Q. Okay.	3	inappropriate relationship between the two?
4	A. And I presume there's still just Cara Lee at the	4	A. I do according to the statements that Renea made
5	Opelika shop.	5	and just from the looks of things with the two
6	Q. Is there some reason that you feel like that	6	of them.
7	Mr. Nelson didn't want to send Renea to	7	Q. You think that's the reason you were treated
8	Opelika other than what he told you?	8	differently?
9	A. He said he wanted her up here at the Alex. City	9	A. I feel like it was.
10	office.	10	Q. Now, these things that Louise and Renea said
11	Q. After you left	11	about your Jesus, how did that make you
12	A. Let me verify something. When I say the office,	12	feel?
13	that includes the office and the shop where	13	A. It was very uncomfortable because, you know, I
14	there's Louise and Renea in the front office and	14	love my Jesus, and I'm proud of him. And I'm
15	then there's the office in the shop where I was	15	proud of him today. He supports me 24/7. And
16	told Debra Keel was working. That was Renea's	16	I'm going to be there for him 24/7.
17	office when I left.	17	Q. Did that make you feel like they were
18	Q. That's just geography, is it not?	18	somehow ridiculing you for being a
19	A. Yes.	19	Christian?
20	Q. They're still doing office work?	20	
21	A. Office work, correct.		A. Yes, I do.
22	·	21	Q. Do you think they wouldn't have made these
1	Q. Patricia, I know I'm asking you to base this	22	remarks if you were not a Christian?
23	next question on things that have been told	23	A. I don't think they would.
	Dec. 50		
1	Page 59 to you and things. But since you left do	1	Page 61 Q. How much were you making per year at Nelson
2	you have any idea about your specific job	2	Electric when you left?
3	duties and who's doing those now?	3	A. Somewhere around 23. I'm not positive about the
4	A. I do not have a clue other what I was told.	4	exact amount right now. I can pull income tax
5	Q. And what were you told?	5	-
6	· ·		and see. But to my knowledge somewhere close to
7	A. I was told that Debra Keel was hired. And she	6	23,000 a year.
	went in for the office in the shop to replace	7	Q. And, Patricia, when you first started
8	Renea. Renea went into Louise's office to	8	working for Gary did you enjoy that job?
9	replace Louise. Louise went into my old office	9	A. Yes, I did.
10	to do my job and replace me.	10	Q. And what about in the end?
11	Q. This was after you were told that the	11	A. No. It was very uncomfortable to go to work
12	business would not support this many	12	there. I went because I had bills to pay.
13	employees?	13	Q. And one final question, Patricia. And I
14	A. Correct.	14	know that Mr. Radney had asked this question
15	Q. Now, Patricia, do you feel like you were	15	in one form. I'm just going to ask it very
16	treated differently than Renea?	16	directly. Has Mr. Nelson ever put his hands
17	A. Yes, I do.	17	on you?
18	Q. Why is that?	18	A. Yes, he did.
19	A. Well, you know, it was pay raises and just the	19	Q. Explain that to me.
20	way he acted in general.	20	A. The very last day after he had let me go I was
21	Q. I'm not asking what he did. I'm asking why	21	packing my personal belongings. I knew I had
22	do you think he treated her better than	22	some discs over there with my personal things on
23	you?	23	there and to verify some other things. And on
	,		and and to verify some other trings. And on
vanacom 0.960/a00000		er week vere it.	16 (Pages 58 to 61)

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1	that was my resume' that I had taken. And there	1	CERTIFICATE
2	was some church business on there. I picked the	2	
3	two discs up to put them in my box. When I did,	3	STATE OF ALABAMA)
4	Gary grabbed me by my right arm and jerked the	4)
5	discs out of my hand.	5	TALLAPOOSA COUNTY)
6	Q. When you say he grabbed you by your right	6)
7	arm, what do you mean? Did he place his	7	I hereby certify that the above and
8	hand on you?	8	foregoing matter was taken down by me in
9	A. No, he grabbed me. He held my arm very	9	stenotype and was thereto reduced to computer
10	strongly.	10	print under my supervision, and that the
11	Q. Would you characterize that as an act of	11	foregoing represents a true and correct
12	aggression?	12	transcript of said matter.
13	A. Yes, I do. I sure do. The way he jumped up and	13	I further certify that I am neither of
14	grabbed me, yes, I do.	14	counsel nor of kin to the parties to the
15	Q. Would you characterize that as some people	15	action, nor am I in anywise interested in the
16	might say man handling you?	16	result of the said cause.
17	A. Yes.	17	result of the salu cause.
18	MR. BLYTHE: That's all the questions I		
19	have.	18	
20	EXAMINATION	19	EDANICEC D. LOCALEY, COMMISCIONED
21	BY MR. RADNEY:	20	FRANCES P. LOONEY, COMMISSIONER
22	Q. I take it when Gary touched you, it wasn't a	21	ABCR NO. 81
23	in a sexual manner, was it?	22	M
23	iii a sexuai iiiaiiilei, was it!	23	My commission expires 12.27.2009.
	Page 63		
1	A. No, it was aggressive.		
2	Q. This was after he had already let you go?		
3	A. Yes, I was packing my things.		
4	Q. Do you know whether or not Debra Keel is		
5	presently employed at Nelson Electric?		
6	A. No, I do not.		
7	Q. Do you know when she was employed?		
8	A. All I know is I was told she came there a couple		
9	of weeks after I left.		
10	Q. In your EEOC charge you never mentioned the		
11	name of Debra Keel. Why is that?		
12	A. Well, we did the day we were there because I		
13	found out the night before we went.		
14	Q. And in your complaint that you filed against		
15	Nelson Electric, you never mentioned the		
16	name Debra Keel, did you, when you filed		
17	this 15 November, 2007? Do you see her name		
18	in this complaint?		
19	A. No, it's not.		
	•		
20	MR. RADNEY: Thank you, ma'am. That's all I		
21	have.		
22	END OF PROCEEDINGS		
23			

Α
A
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